

THE NEW NANKING

HOW CHINA'S ANCIENT CAPITAL IS CHANGING WITH THE MODERN CIVILIZATION.

(Special Correspondence.)
I CAME to Nanking in a big river steamer. The city lies on the Yangtze, 200 miles west of Shanghai and about 400 miles east of Hankow. It is famous as the old capital of China, but to use a favorite expression of William T. Stead, "It now has God Almighty's boots on and is tramping ahead along the paths of modern progress. One of the best of the new railroads now connects it with Shanghai, another is building toward Peking and Tientsin, and others have been projected to Canton and Hankow.

The changes in the place were apparent on landing. When I visited the city 11 years ago I had to show a Chinese passport before I got off the boat. The port is now free to every one, and I was able to go as I pleased. Then I rode from the river to the town on a deck, and we climbed up hill and down, half swimming the pools and wading in mud all the way. My trip of today was made in a carriage over a well macadamized road, shaded with willows. The road slopes from the center, and is perfectly drained. It is about six miles in length, and is one of the 20 miles of paved highway which the city has built within the past three or four years.

THE NEW NANKING.

Nanking lies on a creek five miles back of the Yangtze-Kiang. It was made an open port in 1859 and now has an annual trade of 10,000,000 taels. A lively foreign settlement is rising along the banks of the river, and modern buildings have been constructed all the way from there to the city. I found two dozen cabs and many jinrikishas at the wharves, and as I landed, heard the steam whistle of the engine on the new railroad, which has just been completed, joining the river with Nanking.

Shortly after we entered the walls of the city Dr. Garritt, the president of the Presbyterian Theological seminary, who was with me, began to point out the new school buildings, erected by the Chinese government; and, off in the distance, he showed me the smoke stack of a modern mint, which is now coining money for the viceroy. When I was there last the natives were chopping up silver ingots and weighing the chunks to pay their large bills, and all retail transactions were in cash. Little round copper coins with a hole in the center, of which it took 2,000 to equal the value of one of our dollars. At that time I carried about 10 pounds of coins with me on my donkey, as I rode up to the city. Today my cab fare was paid with a Chinese banknote of the province of Hupeh, lying 400 miles up the river, and the change I got in return was in silver coins fresh from the mint.

CHINA'S ANCIENT CAPITAL.

Such things seem strange in this town of the ages. Nanking one of the old cities of history. It was in existence 600 years when Jesus Christ was a baby, and its municipal hall was gray with double that age when Mohammed, as a boy, was playing on the sands of Arabia. The wall which now surrounds it was built a century before Shakespeare wrote "The Merchant of Venice," and its mighty porcelain tower, which cost \$8,000,000, was erected 15 generations ago, when one of the most progressive monarchs of China had his capital here. That tower was made of the finest porcelain slabs, and it blazed out under the sun, rising to a height nearly half that of the Washington monument. It had nine stories, and a spiral staircase within led from the ground to the summit. About each

story was a gallery, roofed with green tiles, and from the corners of the roof hung bells which tinkled when swayed by the wind. Upon its top was a mass of iron as big as a haystack. This was plated with gold, and could be seen for miles up and down the Yangtze-Kiang valley.

Of this mighty tower the basin is all that remains. It has been picked upon a foundation of marble and now lies some distance away from the mighty monument which it covered. The tower itself was destroyed during the Taiping rebellion, because the insurgents thought it was affecting the spirits of the air and bringing bad luck. Its materials were taken for other buildings and the foreigners carried away all that was left. Today the very foundation is gone; and the Chinese viceroy, who has made his capital here, has an arsenal for making modern guns on its site, and the factory hands are called to their work by the shrill whistle of steam.

ON THE DRAGON'S BACK.

In addition to this there are powder mills nearby, and every now and then an explosion occurs which frightens the ghosts of the tower and horrifies the citizens for fear it may stir up the dragon, upon whose back Nanking is built. Notwithstanding the modern awakening, ghosts, witches and dragons are live elements still in this part of the world. The Chinese believe in spirits and they will do nothing without consulting their wishes. The witch doctors here have a regular profession. They read the stars, the winds and the waters and pretend to predict just what the spirits of good luck and bad will do upon every occasion. I have told you how, when the late emperor was buried, the government sent out geomancers to pick out a lucky site for his tomb. No sensible Chinese would rest in his grave if it were not so selected; and in building a house or making a new town for the living these men are called in to pick out the sites.

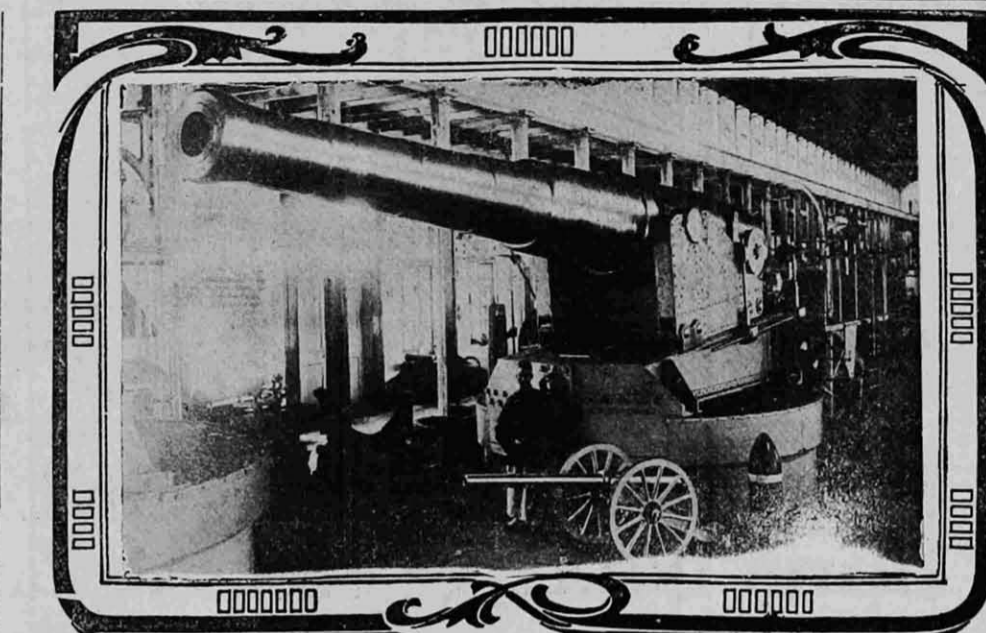
In such work the geomancers do their best to find a spot connected with a dragon. Of all the animals the Chinese consider this the most lucky. It forms the imperial coat of arms, it is seen upon the triangular imperial flags and it brings good fortune or bad to every dynasty or ruler. According to the celestial belief the dragon can do anything. It can swell itself into an elephant or shrink to a gnat. When an eclipse is expected the astrologers tell the people that the dragon is about to attempt to swallow the moon, and the emperor thereupon sends forth an edict commanding all good citizens to turn out and beat drums and pans to scare him away. This was actually the case a few months ago during my stay in Peking.

And what has all this to do with Nanking? A great deal! The ground on which the city stands is shaped like a dragon, and the emperor who founded it said: "If I can build my capital here on the dragon's back it will last forever."

NANKING'S MIGHTY WALLS.

That was many generations ago, and his city is alive today. The mighty walls which he constructed are still solid; they are as wide as a country road, are from 40 to 90 feet high and 25 miles in length.

The Nanking of today, with its 500,000 people, lies in their center, and I drove through them on my way to the town. The walls are made of bricks of about the same size as those used in the great wall of China, laid up in two parallel lines of solid masonry, the space between filled in with earth and stone. They are paved at the top, and upon them are



MODERN GUN FACTORY STANDS ON THE SITE OF THE OLD PORCELAIN TOWER.

still piles of stones, placed there long ago, that they might be thrown down upon the enemies besieging the city. These walls surround a great space which is now devoted to farming. The buildings of the city cover considerable ground, but there is enough still vacant to contain another city the size of Boston, Baltimore or St. Louis.

But I want to tell you about the Nanking of today. I am writing of the awakening of China, and this old town has its eyes open. It has jumped from its couch of the ages, and is primping and adorning itself for the modern civilization. It is paving its streets. The filthy conditions of 14 years ago have vanished. The rats have disappeared, and one can now drive through the town in a carriage. There are some passenger wheelbarrows still, but they are fast being displaced by jinrikishas. I understand that the beggars, who were so numerous in the past, have changed their occupation and become human horses. They have taken to pulling the rikshas, and they will take you anywhere in the town for 5 or 10 cents a ride. The buildings are improving. There are glass windows in many of the shops, and the wealthier citizens are putting up residences of European style. The foreign consuls live in two-story brick houses. The American consulate being one of the best houses in the city.

NANKING'S NEW SCHOOLS.

Nanking has always been a great educational center. When I was last here I visited its examination halls and saw 10,000 Chinese boys writing essays. Each sat in a little brick cell, watched by policemen, and it took them three days and three nights to go through their tests. Such as passed expected to go to further examinations at Peking, where, if successful, they would be given appointments to office. Those cells cover 15 or more acres. They are still standing, but the viceroy has decreed that they are to be demolished, and he will build a great public market house upon the same space. Such structures are needed no longer. The new

education demands modern school buildings, and the old Chinese classics must make a back seat.

Today modern schoolhouses are springing up in different parts of Nanking. The city has already 80 schools run by the government. It has several large kindergartens and many primary and secondary schools. It has a normal college with 500 students, a polytechnic school with 220 and industrial schools of various kinds. In all the schools gymnasiums have been established, and the boys drill several days every week. The viceroy has planned an athletic park, where school meets will be held once a year, and the various teams will compete in sprinting, jumping, pole vaulting and other athletic sports. Several such events have already been held, and they were witnessed by thousands of Chinese of all classes.

CO-EDUCATION IN CHINA.

Among the new school movements going on here is the beginning of a co-educational system. His excellency, Tuan Fang, the viceroy, believes that boys and girls should be educated together, and he has established such a school in his palace. It has now about 50 pupils, taken from the children of high class families. The little ones range in age from 10 to 14, and they are being educated, as it were, under the viceroy's eye. Their course covers four years, and after which they will go to the high schools outside. It is a combination of the Chinese classics and the studies of our public schools. The most of the teachers are Chinese, the professor of Chinese literature being a Nanking girl. The instructor of knitting comes from Japan. The male teachers are Chinese and foreigners.

TAUGHT BY OUTSIDERS.

In the other schools of Nanking a number of foreigners are employed. One of the government high schools has three American teachers, and others are conducted by Germans and Japanese. The commercial academy has several foreign professors, and among them an American who has charge of the classes in banking and commerce. There are foreign instructors in the naval and military schools, and also in the industrial schools and those where the modern languages are taught. The naval college here has been in existence for 10 years or more, and it now has about a dozen professors, including three foreigners. It has several hundred students, who are educated somewhat after the same methods as our cadets at Annapolis. They live at the college and receive pay for going to school.

The most of the teachers in the military academy are Chinese, who have been trained in modern tactics. Some have been educated abroad. The viceroy has an army of about 25,000 troops, and among these are 15,000 who have been drilled after the modern system. The army is largely officered by Chinese who have been educated in foreign military academies. It is armed with modern guns, and the foreign military attaches say that it would prove an effective force in time of war.

THEY WANT THE BEST.

In the new army and in their schools the Chinese are now using many Japanese instructors and drill masters. These will not last, for most of them are inefficient, and this is especially so of the teachers. The Japanese are artificial and in the modern sciences and school methods are at best but skillful imitators. The Chinese are now employing them because of the similarity of the two languages, and more especially on account of their cheapness. Their work is not proving good, and these people, who measure everything by results, will soon come to appreciate this, and will be ready to pay for better trained brains.

Speaking of the Chinese wanting the best, Dr. R. C. Beebe, the head of the great Methodist hospital and school at Nanking, tells me of an incident which

opened a box and showed me a false eye. As we looked at it, he continued: "I got this eye in Shanghai, and it cost me \$1.50. When I showed it to my patient, he said: 'That eye is too cheap for me. It is made by the Japanese, and will break easily.' There are other eyes made by the English which cost \$1, and I find that they are cheaper in the end. I wish you would send order me a four-dollar eye, and he was willing to pay \$2.50 extra for a good eye, rather than a second-class one."

NANKING'S NATIONAL EXPOSITION.

Tuan Fang, the viceroy of Nanking, rules something like ninety million people. He has under him three large provinces, and he is making reforms in all. One of his latest ideas is to hold a national exposition at his capital. For this purpose he has laid out a large public garden and park, in which buildings will be erected and a permanent industrial museum created. He will send out notices and advertisements to all parts of the empire, and will invite exhibitors everywhere to come and show their wares. After the show is over the bazaar is to remain, not only to stimulate trade, but to give the people an education as to the resources and possibilities of China. The park selected for the purpose contains about 600 acres. A carriage road has been made around it, and some of the exposition buildings are already under way. Connected with the show will be athletic sports, and in the grounds, tennis courts, running tracks and cricket and ball fields will be permanently laid out.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Nanking is getting ready for a constitutional government. Its viceroy was the chief of the commission sent around the world to examine such things for the officials at Peking, and the present scheme of reorganization of the government of China may be called one of his

babies. Upon his return from abroad he sent in a memorial to the throne, and shortly thereafter established educational bureaus here to teach the people how to vote, and preparatory institutes to fit them for the provincial parliaments. Lectures on politics are given every few days, and there are public debates, at which the people come together and discuss social and political matters. The imperial decrees are read, and their meaning and probable effect are argued pro and con.

Law schools are also springing up in the three provinces of which this is the capital. One of these was opened only a few weeks ago at Nanking, and it already has 500 students. According to the latest order from Peking, all civil officials are required to take a course in law, and there are certain offices not open except to those who have done so. For this reason the officials, both old and young, now devote to a legal education. FRANK G. CAREPETER.

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THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

In spite of the fact that the word dyspepsia means literally bad cook, it will not be fair for many to lay the blame on the cook if they begin the Christmas Dinner with little appetite and end it with distress or nausea. It may not be fair for any to do that—let us hope so for the sake of the cook! The disease dyspepsia indicates a bad stomach, that is a weak stomach, rather than a bad cook, and for a weak stomach there is nothing else equal to Hood's Sarsaparilla. It gives the stomach vigor and tone, cures dyspepsia, creates appetite, and makes eating the pleasure it should be.

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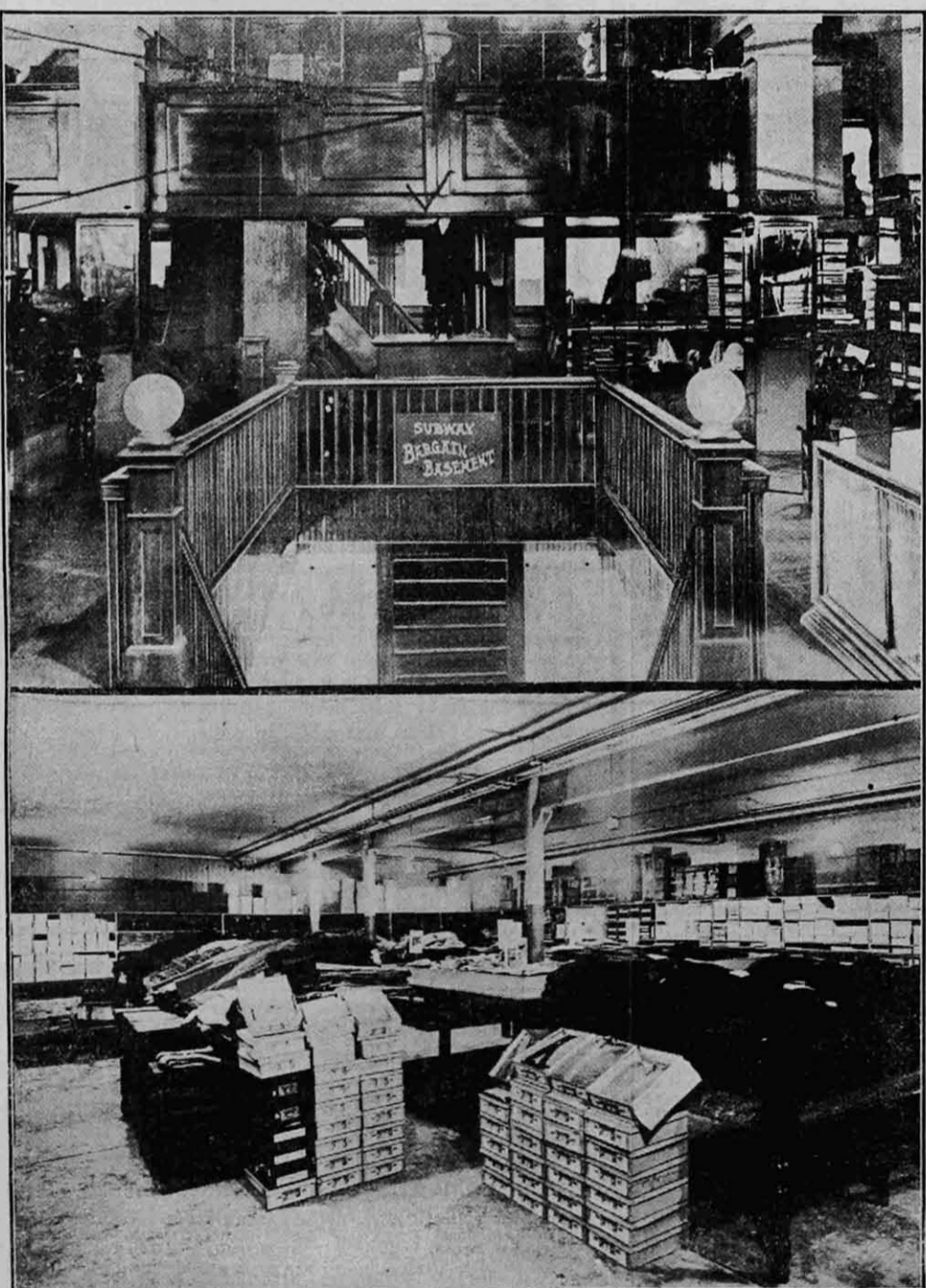
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